



DEBRA LOUISE GRAYSON

February 20, 1960 - February 9, 2018

On February 20, 1960, Debra Grayson was born in Sebring, Florida to Beulah Mae Jenkins and Abraham Jenkins, Sr. She was their second child, born after Abraham Jenkins, Jr. and was followed by Pascal Lamar Jenkins (“Boo Boo”) and Roger Jenkins. In 1962, Beulah and Abraham parted ways. A few years later, Beulah met and eventually married Johnnie Sholtz II, who raised Debra side by side with Beulah from then on.

Beulah and Johnnie had five more children together: Lynette, Russell, Johnnie, Marvin, and Benny. Johnnie Sholtz II also had other children who grew up with Debra: Brenda, Tony, Clifford, and Nathaniel.

As the oldest daughter of a house full of children, Debra was like a second mom to her siblings, cooking for them, making sure they did their chores, and soothing them when they were upset. She was a delightful child who loved wearing the fashionable clothes her mother would sew for her.

After graduating high school in 1978, Debra received the CAMP Scholarship (College Assistance Migrant Program) to attend St. Edward’s University in Austin, Texas. It was at St. Edward’s where in 1979 she met John Grayson, the sweet, always smiling man who would become her husband. While in college, Debra enjoyed socializing with her many friends, dancing, getting dressed up, and enjoying the exuberance of her youth.

In November 1983, Debra and John had their first daughter, Kaneisha Grayson, and in November 1989, they had their second daughter, Tameka Grayson. Debra served as a confidante, cheerleader, and rock of certainty for her daughters as they passed through milestones of adolescence and womanhood such as Tameka becoming a mother in 2012, Kaneisha's wedding in 2015, and Tameka's purchase of her first home in 2017.

Debra graduated from St. Edwards with a Bachelors in Business Administration in 1987, and continued her career at Texas Rehabilitation Commission (TRC). Over a 20+ year career at TRC, Debra made dozens of friends and earned a reputation as the dedicated decorator and party planner for work celebrations, weddings, quinceañeras, and many other festivities and events.

Debra was an outgoing, compassionate person committed to easing the loneliness and suffering of others. She frequently volunteered with the nonprofit Brighter Bites as well as fed and visited homeless individuals around Austin. She loved visiting her elderly friends, making sure they knew they were still loved and needed.

In 2013, Debra gleefully retired. Over the next four years, she frequently shared photos and stories of her post-retirement adventures such as traveling with her friends, gardening, upcycling furniture, whipping up delicious creations, and spending time with her twin grandsons, DayIn and Tyre, whom she affectionately referred to as her "twinkies."

During her retirement, Debra's love for children brought her to be a substitute teacher at Casey Elementary, where she touched many hearts by passionately teaching and helping bring laughter and learning to her students and fellow coworkers.

On February 8, 2018, Debra passed away in her home, surrounded by her husband, her daughters, and their two dogs. Even in her last moments, she was thoughtful. Debra waited until her two daughters were able to make it back home to her side before officially passing on.

Debra Grayson was the life of the party, the belle of the ball, the social butterfly, and the laughter that rang through the halls of every room she encountered—whether at work, a party, or at home. She will be reunited with her late brothers Russell Sholtz, Johnnie Sholtz III, Marvin Sholtz, Abraham Jenkins Jr., and Roger Jenkins.

She leaves to cherish her loving memory her husband John Grayson, her daughters Kaneisha (and husband Damipi Bigou-Lare) and Tameka Grayson, grandsons DayIn and Tyre Jones, father Abraham Jenkins Sr., mother Evangelist Beulah Mae Sholtz, stepfather Johnnie Sholtz II, sister Lynette Sullivan, brother Pascal Lamar Jenkins, brother Benny Sholtz, sister Tahisha Miller, and brother Lamine Miller. She will also be cherished by her many nieces, nephews, cousins, in-laws, students, and hundreds of fabulous friends.

Cemetery Details

Evergreen Cemetery

3304 E12th & Airport Blvd
Austin, TX 78721

Previous Events

Viewing

FEB 16. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

King-Tears Mortuary, Inc.
1300 East 12th Street
Austin, TX 78702

Celebration Service

FEB 17. 2:00 PM (CT)

E.M. Franklin Chapel@St. James Baptist Church
1812 E.M. Franklin Ave.
Austin, TX 78721

Tribute Wall



“ *DEBRA LOUISE GRAYSON*

October 06, 2023 at 07:08 AM



“ *My name is Vernetta McGruder I met Debra Grayson in 1992 when I first moved to Austin. I was a single parent with two young children. I did not know anyone Debra adopted me and family and made us apart a part of her wonderful family for this I am forever grateful. We shared so many holidays, school and work events. She was truly an angel in my in life. Although she is no long here her impact will last a life time. She gave so much of herself to others. I am so blessed to have been a part of her life. Thanks to her family for allowing us to be a part of her life. Remembering Debra with love from my family to hers. May God Bless all of her family.*

Vernetta McGruder - February 20, 2018 at 10:42 PM



“ *I will truly miss Debra Grayson. She always had the knack to keep my spirits us. She never had a dark day. When I was in her presence she would always make me feel good with that beautiful smile and that wonderful laughter. Her conversations were usually about people and how she could help others. If she got angry it was because she felt someone was mistreating others. May she rest in the arms of our Lord as she needs to be taken care of as she always took care of all the people she came in contact with all of her life. May she rest in peace.*

Julia D Dobbins - February 17, 2018 at 03:18 PM

SC

“ My husband and I only met Debra once at my brother Sergio's and my sister in law Melly's wedding. It was after the reception. We were sitting around the table by the pool at the hotel with my cousin and she had us in stitches. She was a very funny and kind lady. I am glad we met her. My heart goes out to her family and friends. May she rest in peace, Suzanne and Robert Christopher

Suzanne Christopher - February 15, 2018 at 04:51 PM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of DEBRA LOUISE GRAYSON.



February 14, 2018 at 07:42 PM

RB

“ Mrs. Grayson was my #1 choice to substitute for me. My students struggle so much with connecting to adults, but with her it was easy. I knew if she was with them, they would feel loved and cared for. She was subbing for another teacher on her last day and caught me at recess to tell me about a Harry Potter cruise that she knew I would be interested in. I told her I wasn't sure if I should spend that kind of money and she told me I needed to treat myself! She was such a wonderful addition to our school family.

Robin Beasley - February 13, 2018 at 08:19 PM